

July 16, 1952

Revised Princeton Statement [on American Foreign Policy]

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Summary:

The Psychological Strategy Board issues a restrained revision of the Princeton Statement adopted at a May 1952 meeting at Princeton on psychological operations [available in the Hoover Archives] convened at the initiative of Free Europe Committee President C.D. Jackson.

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FSB D-26a

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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 16, 1952

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cc'd

MEMORANDUM

For: General Walter Bedell Smith,
Director of Central Intelligence

The Honorable David K. E. Bruce,
Under Secretary of State

The Honorable William C. Foster,
Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Princeton Statement
(Reference: FSB D-26)

Pursuant to the Board's decision at the luncheon on July 3, 1952, there is enclosed a revised text of the Princeton Statement agreed by the Alternates. I assume that appropriate use of the text now rests with the Department of State. It is my understanding that the Board wishes this text to be used in accordance with the more conservative suggestion in the covering memorandum of FSB D-26, namely,"it be worked into an early speech, by the Secretary of State for example, in order to provide current psychological operations in Eastern Europe with needed support without implying any more ambitious programs there." I recommend that the operating agencies concerned be informed accordingly.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE MARCH 2009

RB Allen
Raymond B. Allen
Director

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Enclosure to
PSB D-26a

REVISED PRINCETON STATEMENT

(Optional
for use
by speech-
writer,
if suited
to con-
text)

American foreign policy seeks to attain these goals: the defense of the United States, the creation and maintenance of a structure of world peace in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the development of conditions in which peoples may freely establish the governments and institutions under which they live.

In the War against Nazism the United States and Great Britain, and the Soviet Union as well, pledged themselves to the principle that the countries liberated from Nazi despotism should enjoy the right to governments of their own choice. The Soviet Union has made a mockery of this pledge and ruthlessly prevented the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe from exercising this right.

We share with these peoples the common interest that no single power shall again dominate Europe, destroying their national existence and threatening our own. The constantly reiterated desire of the U. S. Government is to see political independence re-established in those countries within a framework which will sustain the peace.

It is our belief that this goal can be attained without resort to war. The American people will never lose interest in other people who want to be free, and we propose --

To continue to strive, together with others, for the establishment of cooperation among the European countries for economic welfare and common security.

To support the entrance of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe now under Soviet domination, as equal members into this family of friendly nations, as soon as their national liberties are restored.

To strive for a democratic unification of Germany in order that a Germany thus unified may become a constructive member of the family of free European countries, cooperating with its neighbors in the progress of economic advancement and common security.

To link our actions to these ends with continuing efforts to achieve effective world-wide reduction and control of armaments to which these developments in Europe would give powerful support.

It is the clear lesson of this century that men cannot live in peace and freedom when Europe is threatened by the domination of a single power. All history teaches that no nation, however powerful and whatever the ambitions of its rulers, can render itself secure by attempts to impose its will upon other nations.

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Given effective world-wide security arrangements, our objectives can in no way threaten the Russian national interest. On the contrary, the Russian people are now denied security by the policies of the Soviet Regime, and only a change to policies of peaceful collaboration and respect for other countries will permit the vast resources of Russia to be devoted to the welfare of the Russian peoples who could, if permitted to do so, make a great contribution to the welfare of the world.

Our goal is peace with freedom for the peoples of many lands. We have no thought of urging our cultural, social, economic or political patterns on any country. We respect the cultural traditions of each nation as that nation's most precious heritage. We recognize that each nation must be free to organize the forms of its national life, limited only by the common requirements of world peace. Only thus will the deep spiritual, social, and economic aspirations of men find progressive fulfillment.

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